

review of necessary follow-up. Artman claims Kitto at that time emphasized the need for the tribes to begin contributing to the DNC in order to get the Hudson application denied. Though Kitto was unavailable for examination on this specific allegation, he denied ever linking a contributions solicitation with the Hudson application's outcome. Kitto denied any such comments, and no other witness confirmed Artman's recollection.

At the DNC, Mercer wasted no time in pursuing his own follow-up to the meeting, and continuing his efforts to cultivate the opponents as DNC supporters. On Saturday, April 29, he sent a handwritten note to Ducheneaux, stating:

It was a pleasure to meet you last Friday. You were very helpful in summarizing the gaming issue and its implications for Chairman Fowler. I hope you found the meeting encouraging. Let's stay in touch on further developments. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Mercer acknowledges that he probably sent similar notes to other meeting participants.<sup>247</sup>

Ducheneaux responded to Mercer in writing on May 4, noting that he was "amazed and pleased that [Fowler] would devote so much of his time to the [Hudson] issue. The tribal leaders appreciated his time and interest very much." Ducheneaux also seized the opportunity to note that he, Kevin Gover and other Indian leaders had supported the Clinton-Gore ticket in 1992, and would surely "rally 'round the Clinton-Gore flag in the coming months." But, Ducheneaux added, "I must say there has been some disappointment in concrete White House support for Indian country since the election." For Mercer's "information," Ducheneaux also provided a copy of a letter that he and his partner were providing to the Indian nations they represented. The

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<sup>247</sup>Fowler also sent notes to the tribal leaders and some of their representatives on May 8, 1995. In these letters, he assured the April 28 guests that "the DNC is committed to assisting in the solution of the problems we discussed in our meeting. I hope that this matter can be resolved in the near future and that all concerned can benefit and learn from the final outcome."